

Remarks

Claims 1-27, 29 and 30 were pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 2. Claims 6, 7, 11 and 27 have been amended for formalities. Claims 2-5 and 20-22 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any canceled subject matter in one or more continuing applications. No new matter is introduced. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 6-19, 23-27, 29 and 30 are pending.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Office alleges that there are three inventions encompassed by the current claims. The following claim groups have been assigned:

Group I (claims 1-19 and 23-26)	A nanoparticle which encapsulate a fluorescent material
Group II (claims 20-22)	Method of preparation of the nanoparticle
Group III (claims 27 and 29-30)	Method of detecting footprints

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups I and III are directed to related products and processes. Applicants ask that the Office recognize this relationship and the right of the process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitation of an allowable product claim to be rejoined.

Applicants elect without traverse the claims of Group I (claims 1-19 and 23-26) for prosecution in the subject application. Claims 1, 6-19 and 23-26 encompass the elected invention.

Based on the foregoing Amendment, the claims are in condition for substantive examination. If any issues remain to be addressed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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